Introduction

• Claims 1-15 are pending in this application.

• Claims 1 and 15 have been amended.

• Claim 1 is independent.

Applicant Request for Interview

This Amendment is believed to overcome the rejections as discussed below; nevertheless, should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney, before mailing a next Office Action, in an effort to resolve such issues. Thus, this paragraph should be considered a formal request for an interview. The Examiner is thanked for his assistance in this regard.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

• Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The Examiner states at page 2 of the Office Action that: "A program is considered non-statutory subject matter unless explicitly stored on a computer-readable storage medium."

Claim 15 has been amended herein to recite a "*non-transitory* computer-readable *storage* medium storing a program which, when executed, causes a computer to function..."

Accordingly, since claim 15 now explicitly recites that a *non-transitory* computer-readable *storage* medium is what stores the program, claim 15 is seen to be statutory. For at

least the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection under Section 101 is respectfully requested.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

• Claims 1, 5-8, 12, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0004816 to Vange in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0049636 to Campbell.

• Claims 2-4 were rejected as being obvious from Vange and Campbell, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,598,524 to Johnston Jr.

• Claims 9-11 and 13 were rejected as being obvious from Vange and Campbell, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0138504 A1 to Yano.

Applicants submit that amended independent claim 1, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Applicants note that in responding to the arguments made previously by Applicants, the Examiner states the following, *inter alia*, at pages 13-14 of the Office Action:

> In response to Applicant's "Difference 3," Examiner has clarified his citation pointing out that information is sent to the client directing it to the data. Furthermore, management information has not been defined to be exclusively file location information and thus under the current claim language, the Examiner stands by his interpretation that a token can read on "management information." In response to Applicant's "Difference 4," based on Examiner's current interpretation of "management information," the client would necessarily have storage means to store such information.
>
> Accordingly, the rejection is maintained. To further prosecution, <u>the Examiner suggests that a single limitation clarifying what management information can and can not be would likely overcome the current rejection</u>. (Emphasis added.)

Therefore, according to the Examiner, a "token" in Vange can read on the "management information" in claim 1. In consideration of this, Applicants have amended claim 1 herein to specifically recite that the management information includes a URL of the external storage site. Using information including a URL as management information finds support in the present application, being described for example at page 11, lines 35-36.[1]

A URL is information that directly indicates an absolute location of a site. Once the URL of a site is known, the site can be accessed from anywhere through the second network without any other information. The management information including a URL of the external storage site, as recited in claim 1, clearly distinguishes claim 1 over "token" of Vange.[2]

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, and that the rejection has been overcome. Thus, claim 1 is seen to be clearly allowable over Vange and Campbell, whether considered separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

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[1] It is of course to be understood that the references to various portions of the present application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited by the details shown in the portions referred to.

[2] As to the Examiner's comments quoted above that "management information has not been defined to be exclusively file location information," this is because per Applicants' invention management information may also include, as for example in claim 10, "information indicating a dividing method that is carried out." As discussed at page 12, lines 8-9 of the specification, management information may also include "various information besides information specifying the storage site that is the transfer destination." See also page 21, lines 14-18 of the specification.
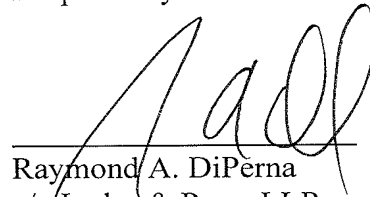
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<u>The dependent claims</u>

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent claim 1

discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each

dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention,

however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is

respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request

favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted

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